

Botanic name : *Solanum xanthocarpum* Schrad. & J.C.Wendl. - -- Sert. Hanov. i. 8. t. 2. (IK)

Common name : Wild egg-plant, Yellow Berried Night Shade, Kantakari (Sanskrit), Kateli, Nidigadhika.

Habitat : Terrestrial

Distribution: Indian origin; mainly warm season plant growing in tropical and sub-tropical regions. Occurs throughout India in dry conditions ascending to 1500 meter on Himalaya, in roadsides and waste lands

Description : A very prickly, bright green, semi perennial, upto 1.5 m grown shrub, highly branched and with bluish-purple flower; stem herbaceous; 8-10 mm thick and variable length with prominent nodes and internodes and prickly nature; green and branches covered with hairs and with prominent furrows (young); when mature glabrous; yellowish green, smooth surface with a thin layer of bark and prominent wood (dry); centre with a large, distinct pith and mature dry stem with hollow pith; leaves exstipulate, petiolate, elliptic or ovate-oblong, sub-pinnatifid or sinuate, subacute, hairy, green, midrib and veins with sharp prickles; flowers bright blue or bluish purple in colour; ebracteate pedicellate, bisexual, complete, actinomorphic, pentamerous; calyx persistent, gamosepalous, tube globose, short, linear-lanceolate, acute, hairy; corolla gamopetalous, deltoid lobes, acute, hairy, deep purple-blue coloured, stamens 5, epipetalous, basifixed, filament short 1-1.5 mm long; anther, oblong lanceolate; ovary superior, ovoid; bilocular, with many ovules/ chamber in axile placentation, glabrous; fruit globular, berry, with persistent calyx at base, unripe and ripe fruits variegated with green and white strips and yellow and white shades respectively; seeds flat, circular, glabrous.

Phytochemicals: Glucoalkaloid solanocarpine, carpesterol, solanine-S, solasonine, stigmasterol, sitosteryl-glucoside, campesterol, stigmasteryl glucoside methyl β solasurine, β -solamargine, galactoside of β -sitosterol, neochlorogenic, isochlorogenic, chlorogenic acids, methyl ester of 3,4-dihydroxycinnamic acid and 3,4- dihydroxycinnamic acid (caffeic acid), flavonal glycoside, cholesterol, scopolin, scopoletin, coumarins, tomatidenol, solanocarpine; solasonine, solamargine, betasolamargine, and solasodine (fruits), apigenin (petals); quercetin diglycoside and sitosterol (stamens)

Economic/ Medicinal uses: A very important medicinal plant of Ayurveda; plant is bitter, acrid, hot, anodyne, antitussive, anthelmintic, laxative (fruits), maintaining body temperature, antipyretic, anti arthritic, antiinflammatory, antiasthma, carminative, appetizer, stomachic, depurative, sudorific, emmenagogue and aphrodisiac. Used to treat cough, fever, chest pain, anti-bronchitis, digestive, kills the worms in intestine, regularizes menstruation during pregnancy, blood purifier, antidiabetic; used for the treatment of piles, Ascaris, gum disease, inflammation of the middle ear, difficult urination and for rejuvenation, bladder stones, hepatomegaly, anemia, aphtous ulcers, prevents hairfall and removes dandruff and also useful in skin disease. A decoction of plant is used in gonorrhoea. The leaves are applied for piles.